

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**State Project #82-309**

## **Reconfiguration of Route 17 On-Ramp onto Route 9 North and associated improvements**



*Existing Route 17 On-Ramp onto Route 9 North*

Held at:

Middletown City Hall  
Council Chambers  
Middletown, Connecticut

Tuesday, September 23, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

## **Connecticut Department of Transportation Personnel:**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Documents and other information are available for public inspection and copying at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Engineering Office at 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Monday – Friday between the hours 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., holidays excluded.

The Department of Transportation carefully considers all comments or suggestions made at this meeting. Additional comments will be accepted until Wednesday, October 8, 2014. Please address your written comments by mail or email to:

William W. Britnell  
Principal of State Highways  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
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P.O. Box 317546  
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546  
Email: [William.Britnell@ct.gov](mailto:William.Britnell@ct.gov)

An addressed comment form has been included for your convenience.



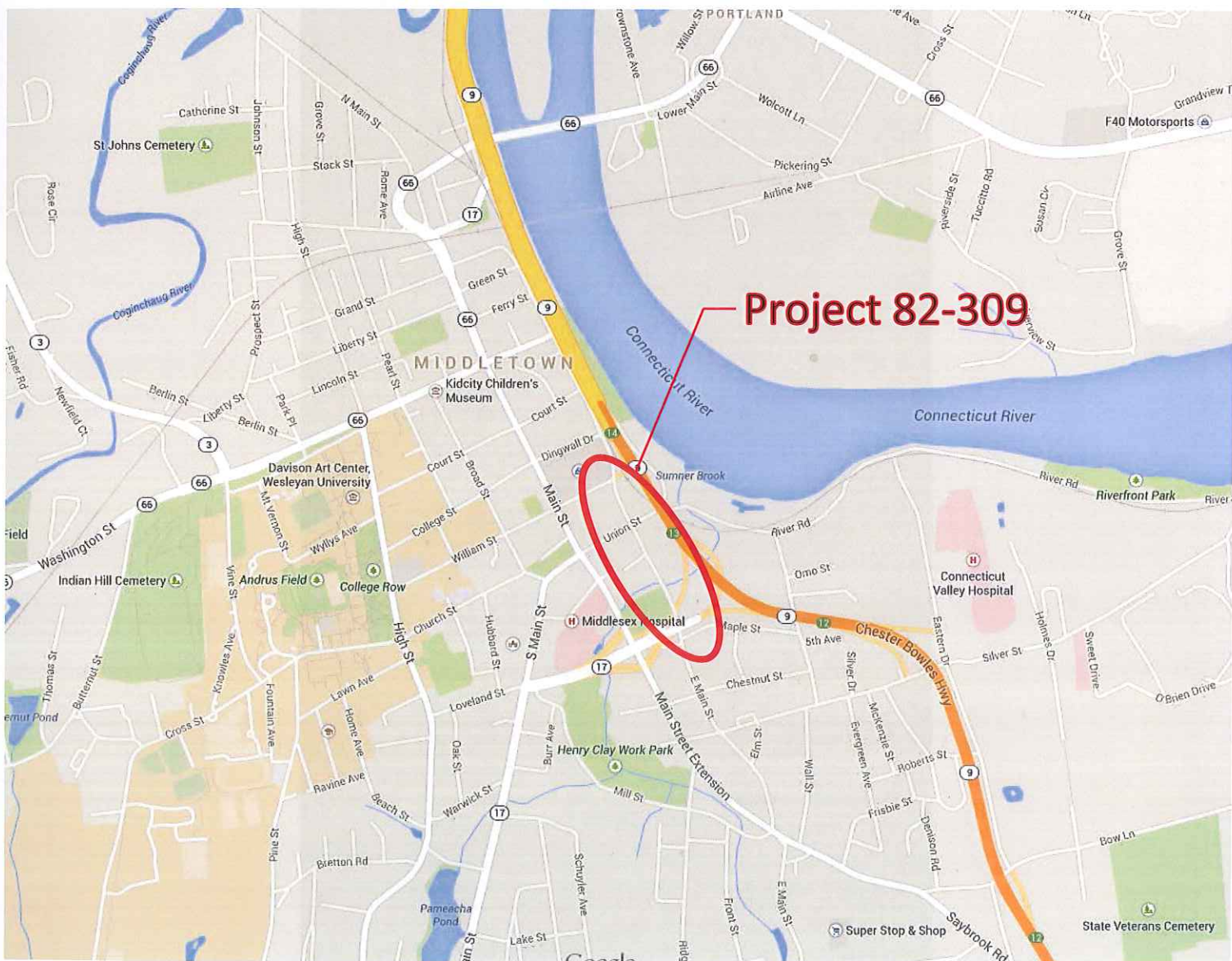
## PROPOSED CONCEPT INFORMATION

### LOCATION

This concept is proposed for a location in the City of Middletown in the vicinity of the Route 17 on-ramp onto Route 9 north, just south of Harbor Park.

### PURPOSE

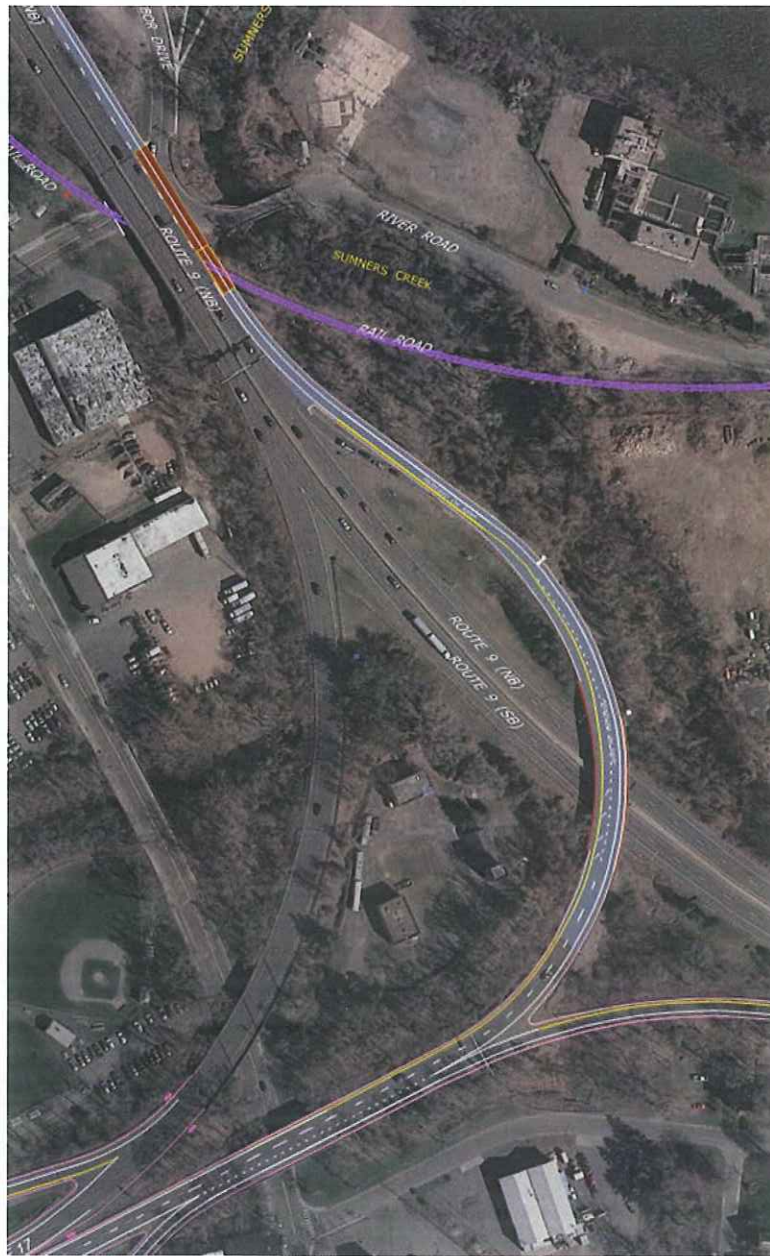
The core purpose of this project is to develop a conceptual plan to improve safety and vehicle operations at the on-ramp of Route 17 onto Route 9 north. This on-ramp has been classified as number two on the Department's statewide list of high frequency crash locations. In a 3 year period from 2010 to 2012, there were a total of 375 accidents reported by police at the site.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### **Route 17 On-Ramp**

The existing Route 17 on-ramp to Route 9 north is a stop-controlled on-ramp with no acceleration lane. The lack of an acceleration lane is due to the limited roadway width of the bridge immediately north of the on-ramp, which carries Route 9 over a local road intersection and a rail line. This concept proposes to widen the existing bridge to accommodate a full length acceleration and merge lane, and remove the stop-control condition. Additionally, improvements along the Route 17 split to Route 9 north and south would include a new lane arrangement. Two travel lanes will split to the left, merge to one lane which will then merge onto Route 9 north. A single lane will split to the right, and then merge with Route 9 south.





# Overall Concept Plan



PROJECT NO. 82-309  
ROUTE 17/ROUTE 9 ON-RAMP  
CONCEPT PLAN - MIDDLETOWN, CT



## Associated Improvements

### a. Relocation of Union Street Intersection

The widening of the Route 9 bridge would be facilitated by the relocation of the intersection of Union Street, Harbor Drive and River Road which is now located under the bridge. This intersection would be moved further east across Sumner Creek, which would require the construction of two new bridges, and the realignment of the three intersecting roadways.



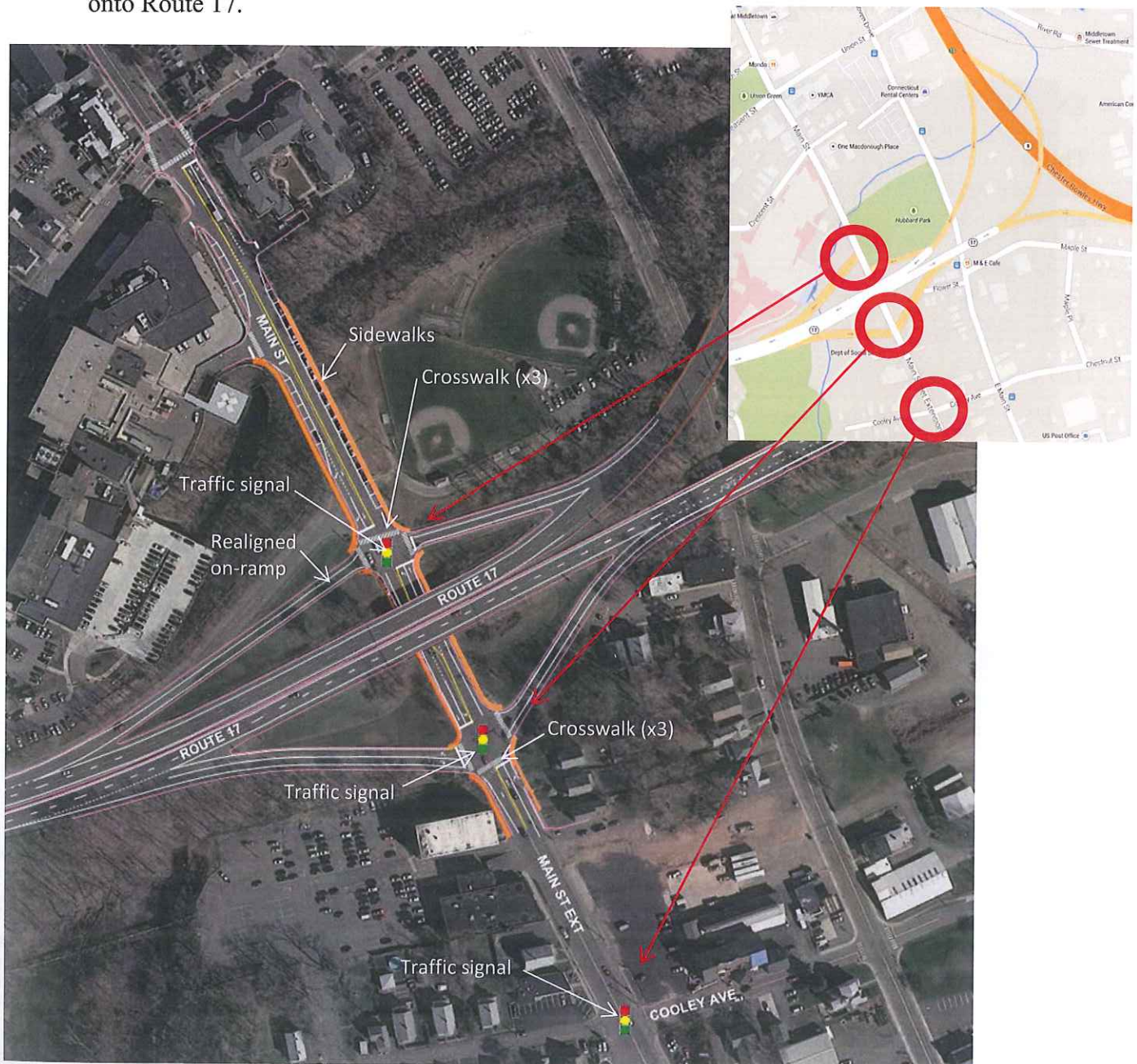
### b. Closing of Harbor Drive

Additionally as part of this concept, an option to close the existing on-ramp onto Route 9 north located at the north end of Harbor Drive is being considered. Closing this ramp would greatly reduce both the volume and speed of vehicles now utilizing Harbor Drive. This would increase safety for vehicles and pedestrians, as well as transform the character of this riverfront area.





- c. It is anticipated that the closure of Harbor Drive on-ramp onto Route 9 North will cause minor changes to traffic operations within the City of Middletown. To evaluate the anticipated changes, the Department has conducted a traffic study to determine the redistributed traffic volumes to other roadways and intersections within the area. In order to address these anticipated changes, improvements to the Route 17 interchange with Main Street Extension has been added to this concept. These improvements include the realignment of the northern intersection, installation of 3 traffic signals and restriping the roadway to provide turning lanes onto Route 17.



Main Street and Main Street Extension Proposed Improvements



## **RIGHTS OF WAY**

Should this concept become a project, it is anticipated that there will be rights-of-way involvement in order to accommodate some roadway features.

## **MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC**

In general, the majority of the work would be expected to be accomplished while maintaining traffic. Some operations may require alternating one-way traffic. Detours may be required in some cases. Access to private properties and businesses would be maintained.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This project would have considerable environmental considerations due to the proximity to the Connecticut River, Sumner Brook and the associated wetlands and floodplain. These would be addressed during the design of the project.

## **ESTIMATED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COST**

The cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$20 - \$25 million.

## **STATUS**

Currently, this project is being considered as an option to address the high frequency of accidents at the Route 17 on ramp. The recent coordination with the City, along with this public informational meeting are both intended to determine the level of support prior to seeking funding for this potential project. Should the project move forward, coordination with the City, as well as an additional public informational meeting will be held during the Preliminary Design Phase of the project.

It is anticipated that Federal funds would be requested by the Department for the Design, Right of Way and Construction phases of the project. The possible schedule would entail a Design Completion in 2017 with construction starting in 2018. Construction would be expected to take two construction seasons.



## STATE PROJECT NO. 82-309

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Written comments must be postmarked by October 8, 2014



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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NEWINGTON, CT 06131-7546

ATTN. DAVID W. HARMS  
PROJECT NO. 82-309

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